Health Disciplines Board

Annual Report

January 1 to December 31, 1989

Alberta

HEALTH DISCIPLINES BOARD

90-07355/

Alberta
PROFESSIONS AND
OCCUPATIONS BUREAU

5th Floor, Kensington Place, 10011 - 109 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5J 3S8 403/427-2655

June 7, 1990

Honourable R.S. (Dick) Fowler, Q.C.
Minister Responsible for
Professions and Occupations

Dear Mr. Fowler:

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Health Disciplines Board for the year January 1, 1989 to December 31, 1989.

Respectfully submitted,

Elvin Christenson, Chairman
Health Disciplines Board

Alberta
PROFESSIONS AND
OCCUPATIONS BUREAU

5th Floor, Kensington Place, 10011 - 109 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5J 3S8 403/427-2655

June 7, 1990

Mr. Elvin Christenson
Chairman
Health Disciplines Board

Dear Mr. Christenson:

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Health Disciplines Board for the year January 1, 1989 to December 31, 1989.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Charlton
Registrar
Health Disciplines Board

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This is the seventh Annual Report of the Health Disciplines Board. Part I of the Report describes the objectives of the Health Disciplines Act and the history, responsibilities and structure of the Health Disciplines Board. Part II summarizes the Board's activities during 1989 and the status of Health Disciplines regulated under the Act as of December 31, 1989.

PART I: THE HEALTH DISCIPLINES BOARD

HEALTH DISCIPLINES ACT

Objectives

The Health Disciplines Act was passed by the Legislative Assembly in November 1980 and proclaimed in December of 1981 (as the Health Occupations Act).

The Act was introduced to achieve a range of fundamental objectives:

- to provide the public with safeguards where there is risk from the practice of unregulated occupations;
- to provide a means to regulate health disciplines whose practice involves risk to patients or clients, requires special knowledge or technical proficiency and involves the exercise of some independent responsibility and judgement;
- to avoid the proliferation of individual professional statutes with varying standards by providing a mechanism for regulating various disciplines that are not regulated under other legislation;
- to ensure that health disciplines which may be contravening the **Medical Profession Act** or other professional statutes are legally entitled to practice;
- to allow for the self-governance of regulated health disciplines, where practical, rather than placing them under the legislative supervision of other health professions;
- to allow for a degree of peer regulation for the disciplines regulated under the Act;
- to establish a Health Disciplines Board to advise the government on matters relating to the regulation of health disciplines.

THE HEALTH DISCIPLINES BOARD

The Health Disciplines Board was established in January 1982 as a result of the proclamation of the Health Disciplines Act. The Board is an advisory body of Government whose function is to provide expertise and guidance in the regulation of health disciplines under the Act.

This public body consists of nine members: two from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, one from the Alberta Dental Association and six from the general public. Representatives from the Departments of Health, Family and Social Services and Advanced Education are entitled to attend meetings of the Board as observers.

The Health Disciplines Board has the following major responsibilities:

- to evaluate and make recommendations regarding the designation of health disciplines under the Act
- to develop and recommend regulations which establish a scope of practice, educational qualifications, approved training programs, examinations, registration practices, reserved titles and standards of conduct for each of the designated health disciplines
- to act as an appeal body for decisions of the health discipline committees with respect to matters of registration, conduct and competency
- to approve educational programs and registration examinations

Committees and Associations

Health disciplines which have been designated under the Health Disciplines Act are governed by a health discipline committee or a health discipline association. These bodies register practitioners, handle disciplinary matters and assist the Board in establishing or amending regulations. Health Discipline Committees are made up of

members, appointed by the Minister, the majority of whom are practitioners of the health discipline. Health discipline associations are the professional bodies of the discipline with officers elected in accordance with the bylaws of that body.

Two further types of committees may be established. Regulation Development Advisory Committees assist the Board in the development of regulations for designated health disciplines. Expert Advisory Committees are established for specific purposes such as development of examinations.

Figure 1 shows the various committees and associations in operation or in the process of being established during 1989.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

The members of the Health Disciplines Board during 1989 were:

Dr. J. Noakes, Chairman
Mr. A. Koch, Deputy Chairman
Mr. A. Maiani
Mr. S. Porter
Mrs. J. Rudd
Mrs. D. Latham
Dr. R. Sherbaniuk
Mr. N. Kashuba

RESEARCH AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

The Health Disciplines Board and its committees are assisted in their work by the Registrar of Health Disciplines and other professional staff from the Alberta Professions and Occupations Bureau.

The Minister Responsible for Professions and Occupations is responsible for administration of the **Health Disciplines Act**.

FIGURE 1

HEALTH DISCIPLINES BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1989

Expert Advisory Committees
Emergency Medical Technician Examination Advisory Committee
**Combined Laboratory and X-ray Technicians Provincial Examination Advisory Committee
**Combined Laboratory and X-ray Technicians Educational Standards Advisory Committee
Registered Nursing Assistants Educational Standards Advisory Committee

Health Discipline Committees
Combined Laboratory and X-Ray Technician Committee
Acupuncture Committee
**Electroneurophysiological Technologist Committee
Mental Deficiency Nurses Committee

Health Discipline Associations
Alberta Prehospital Professions Association
Alberta Association of Medical Radiation Technologists
Alberta Hearing Aid Practitioners Association
Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association of Alberta
Professional Council of Registered Nursing Assistants
Alberta Society of Respiratory Therapists

**In the process of development

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HEALTH DISCIPLINES BOARD

As indicated in figure 2, the Health Disciplines Board has the following major responsibilities:

Investigations

One of the Board's primary functions is to investigate and evaluate health disciplines to determine whether regulation under the Health Disciplines Act would serve the public interest. The Board conducts an investigation if a request has been made by or on behalf of an association of persons engaged in that health discipline, or if directed by the Minister.

In conducting these investigations, information is collected from associations concerned with the health discipline, employers, government departments and agencies, educational institutions and members of the public. Questionnaires are distributed as a means of soliciting data. Those who submit written briefs are also invited to make oral presentations to the Board.

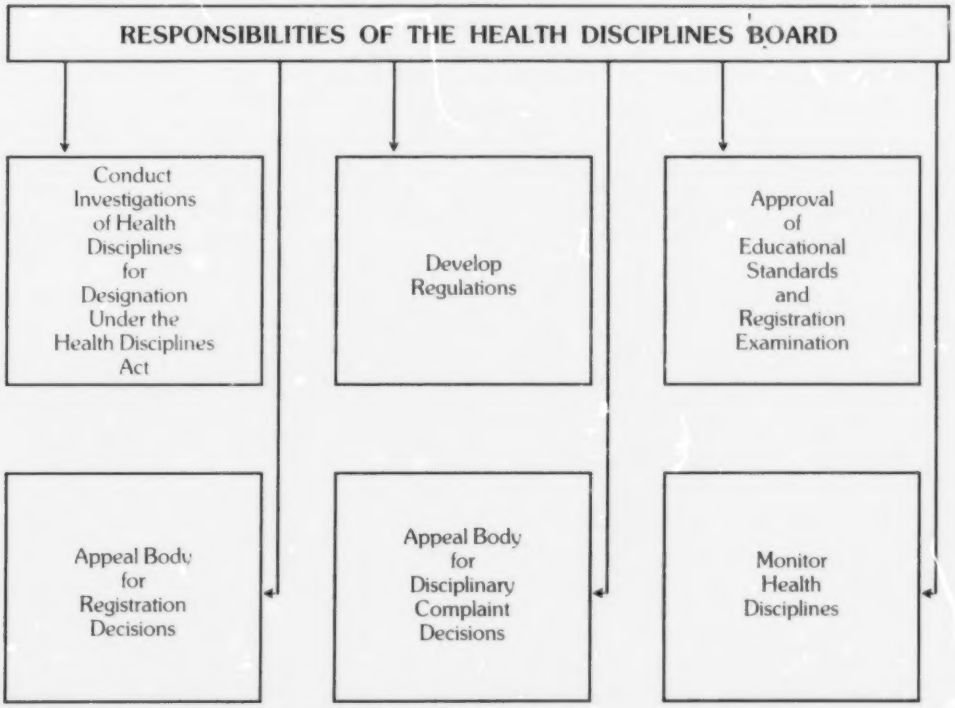
The Board seeks information on the following:

- the tasks practitioners perform and the complexity of those tasks
- the degree of direction or supervision received by practitioners of the discipline
- approved educational programs for the health discipline both in and outside of Alberta

The Board then evaluates the information collected with respect to:

- the degree of direct and personal impact practitioners may have on the health of those whom they care for or treat
- desirable qualifications with respect to education, training, specific knowledge or technical proficiency
- the minimum standards of competency required of practitioners

FIGURE 2


RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HEALTH DISCIPLINES BOARD
Conduct Investigations of Health Disciplines for Designation Under the Health Disciplines Act
Develop Regulations
Approval of Educational Standards and Registration Examination
Appeal Body for Registration Decisions
Appeal Body for Disciplinary Complaint Decisions
Monitor Health Disciplines

- the health services that practitioners may provide within the scope of the health discipline and any limitations or conditions applicable to the provision of those services
- the level of independence of practice that is necessary or desirable for practitioners of the health discipline

Upon completion of its study, the Board determines whether the potential for harm and the degree of risk to the public associated with the practice of the health discipline warrants regulation under the Act.

The Board then submits to the Minister Responsible for Professions and Occupations a full report and recommendation as to whether designation is in the public interest. If the Government decides that the discipline should be designated, legislation is enacted adding the discipline to the schedule that accompanies the Health Disciplines Act.

The Board also includes in its report a recommendation as to whether the discipline should be governed by a health discipline committee or a health discipline association.

Regulations

Once a health discipline has been accepted for designation, the Minister may appoint an advisory committee to develop Regulations. The advisory committee reports to the Health Disciplines Board. Regulations are made concerning the following:

- scope of practice, including services that a health discipline may provide and conditions and limitations upon those services
- qualifications and conditions of eligibility for practitioners applying for registration
- renewal and temporary registration criteria
- fees payable for registration, examination and renewal of registration
- information to be contained in the register for each discipline
- the names, titles, descriptions, abbreviations and initials that a registered practitioner may use to indicate that he/she is a member of a designated health discipline
- requirements related to training and refresher programs, continuing education courses and registration examinations
- standards of conduct and competency
- establishment of a registration committee and a conduct and competency committee for each health discipline association

Since practitioners knowledgeable in the health discipline are members of the advisory committee, that body has a major role in developing regulations. It is responsible for assisting the Board in drafting regulations and circulating them as widely as possible to various stakeholders for their comments. After consultation and revisions are complete, a draft Regulation is presented to the Board and is subsequently recommended to the Government for its consideration and decision. Regulations generally come into effect on a date following proclamation. When the Regulation comes into effect, the Minister, on the recommendation of the Health Disciplines Board, may establish through Ministerial Order either a health discipline committee or a health discipline professional association.

Registration

The Health Disciplines Board acts as an appeal body for decisions of health discipline committees and health discipline associations with respect to registration.

Education and Examinations

The committee or association that governs a designated health discipline advises the Health Disciplines Board with respect to the qualifications and training desirable for registration. The Board is responsible for approving training programs, refresher programs and examinations that are recognized for registration purposes.

Complaints and Appeals

The Health Disciplines Act establishes procedures which enable members of the public to lodge a complaint against any registered practitioner. Complaints may be made with respect to conduct, skills or judgement used in practice, fitness to practise, or provision of unauthorized services.

The Health Disciplines Board acts as an appeal body for disciplinary decisions made by health discipline committees or associations.

Monitoring

Designated health disciplines are monitored on an ongoing basis by way of reports from health discipline committees and associations and reports from the Registrar. If the Board is not satisfied with the performance of a health discipline committee or association it may direct the Registrar of Health Disciplines to take whatever remedial action is appropriate. Ultimately, the Board may recommend to the Minister that the order establishing a committee or association be rescinded and that a more appropriate governing body be established.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOVERNING COMMITTEES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Day to day governance of a designated health discipline is the responsibility of either a health discipline committee or a health discipline (professional) association.

Committees are made up of three to nine members appointed by the Minister, the majority of whom are practitioners of the discipline being governed. The remaining members are knowledgeable with respect to the practice of the discipline.

An association of practitioners of a health discipline may assume the responsibility of governing the discipline if the Board makes such a recommendation and it is approved by the Minister. Recommendations are based on such factors as the number of members in the association, the length of time the association has existed and its financial position. A health discipline association appoints a registrar who has similar powers and duties to the Registrar of the Health Disciplines Board. The association also establishes a registration committee, and a conduct and competency committee which have the same powers and duties as a health discipline committee.

Committees and associations register practitioners, handle disciplinary matters and assist the Board in establishing and amending regulations for the discipline.

Registration

The registration of practitioners designated under the Act is initiated when the Regulation for the health discipline comes into force. Individuals are required to submit an application detailing their educational qualifications, examination results, certification, professional registration, employment record and character references. For the qualifying applicants, the practitioner's name, place of employment, date of registration and registration number are recorded in a register for that discipline. These registers are open to the public during regular office hours. Each registered practitioner is issued a card with his/her name, address, area of practice and registration expiry date. These cards provide proof of registration for employers, patients and others.

Registration must be renewed annually. Renewals are processed upon submission of the prescribed form and fee, provided that the applicant has fulfilled the requirements for renewal of registration. These conditions may include a minimum period of employment in the health discipline, meeting continuing education requirements and being of good professional standing. Applicants who do not meet the necessary requirements are referred to the health discipline committee or association for review and recommendation. The decision of a health discipline committee or association may be appealed to the Health Disciplines Board and further to the Court of Queen's Bench.

Conduct and Competency

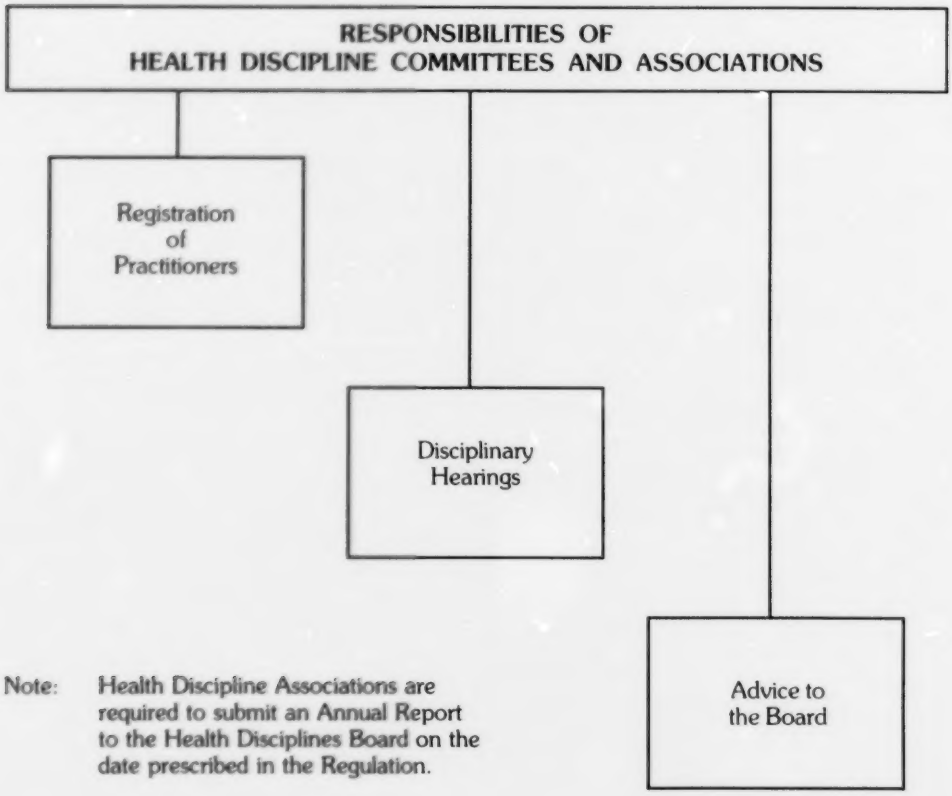
Under the Health Disciplines Act a complaint can be made against a registered member of a designated health discipline with respect to:

- competence or fitness to practice
- conduct
- health services provided
- lack of skill or judgement

Complaints must be made in writing and to the appropriate committee or association. All information pertaining to the patient or clien. is kept confidential. Upon receipt of a complaint, the Registrar (or designate) conducts a preliminary investigation to determine whether the complaint is trivial or vexatious. If a complaint is determined not to be trivial or vexatious, the matter is referred to the conduct and competency committee of the health discipline association or to the health discipline committee and a hearing is held.

If, as a result of a hearing, a complaint is upheld, the registered practitioner may be reprimanded, fined, suspended, struck from the register, or required to take specified training. The complainant or the practitioner may appeal decisions of the committee or association to the Health Disciplines Board. The Board's decision may, in turn, be appealed to the Court of Queen's Bench.

FIGURE 3



Note: Health Discipline Associations are required to submit an Annual Report to the Health Disciplines Board on the date prescribed in the Regulation.

Amendments to Regulations

When amendments to the Regulation for a designated health discipline are required, a draft of the proposed changes is reviewed by the Health Disciplines Board. Governing committees or associations are responsible for providing advice to and preparing documentation for the Board.

A draft Amendment Regulation is then circulated to all interested stakeholder groups to obtain comments. Following consideration of stakeholder comments, a revised draft is prepared with an accompanying report outlining the process taken and pertinent issues. The Regulation and documentation are then presented to the Health Disciplines Board. When satisfied, the Health Disciplines Board recommends the Regulation to the Minister for consideration. It is the responsibility of the committee or association to implement the changes to the Regulation when it comes into effect.

Annual Status Reports from Health Discipline Associations

An annual report is submitted to the Registrar of the Health Disciplines Board by those professional associations that govern designated health disciplines. The dates of submission vary and are specified in the regulations for each discipline. The annual report reflects the general status of the discipline, highlighting any major developmental initiatives or significant problems. Additionally, the following operational activities are addressed:

- registration information
- number of complaint hearings held and decisions
- practice review information
- bylaw changes
- regulation changes
- educational programs and examination changes
- financial status of the association

PART II: HEALTH DISCIPLINES STATUS REPORT

Since 1982, thirty-five applications for designation under the Act have been received by the Health Disciplines Board. As shown in Figure 4, the outstanding applications for designation are at various stages of completion and ongoing administration is required for the eight health disciplines that were designated under the Act as of December 31, 1989.

HEALTH DISCIPLINES UNDER EVALUATION FOR DESIGNATION

During 1989, applications for designation were received from the Alberta Association of Midwives and the Alberta Dietary Technologists Association.

As of December 31, 1989 investigations were in progress for the following health disciplines:

- Naturopathic Practitioners
- Medical Laboratory Technologists
- Midwives
- Podiatrists
- Cytotechnologists
- Orthotists and Prosthetists
- Recreational Therapists
- Dietary Technologists

HEALTH DISCIPLINES TO BE DESIGNATED

Investigations have been completed for the following health disciplines.

Acupuncture

An Acupuncture Committee has been established to develop a Regulation for the discipline. Once a suitable registration examination has been developed, the Regulation will come into force.

Electroneurophysiological Technologists

The Board began its evaluation of Electroneurophysiological Technology in 1984. Following an initial investigation, the Board determined that interest groups should be contacted to reconsider the practitioners' title and scope of practice. Upon completing the investigation the Board recommended designation and a change in discipline title, from Electroencephalograph Technologist to Electroneurophysiological Technologist. An advisory committee is in the process of being established to develop a Regulation for this discipline.

HEALTH DISCIPLINES DESIGNATED DURING 1989

During 1989, two new disciplines, Combined Laboratory and X-ray Technicians (CLXT) and Mental Deficiency Nurses (MDN) were designated.

FIGURE 4

STATUS OF HEALTH DISCIPLINES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1989

Investigations in Process	Investigations Complete and Regulations Being Developed	Regulations Approved — Ongoing Governance	Investigations Completed — Not Designated
Midwives	Acupuncturists	Psychiatric Nurses	Dental Technicians
Naturopathic Practitioners	Electroneuro-physiological Technicians	Hearing Aid Practitioners	Domiciliary Midwives
Dietary Technologists		Emergency Medical Technicians	Electrologists
Podiatrists		Medical Radiation Technologists	Herbalists
Cytotechnologists		Respiratory Therapists	Orthomolecular Consultants
Recreational Therapists		Registered Nursing Assistants	Orthopedic Technologists
Orthotists & Prosthetists		Combined Laboratory & X-ray Technicians	Remedial Gymnasts
Medical Laboratory Technologists		Mental Deficiency Nurses	Massage Therapists
			Homeopathic Practitioners
			Health Record Administrators/ Technicians
			Chiropodists
			Athletic Therapists

NOTE: Excludes applications that have been withdrawn

HEALTH DISCIPLINES CURRENTLY REGULATED

As of December 31, 1989, the following disciplines were regulated under the Health Disciplines Act:

- Combined Laboratory and X-ray Technicians
- Emergency Medical Technicians
- Hearing Aid Practitioners
- Medical Radiation Technologists
- Mental Deficiency Nurses
- Psychiatric Nurses
- Registered Nursing Assistants
- Respiratory Therapists

Registration of Practitioners

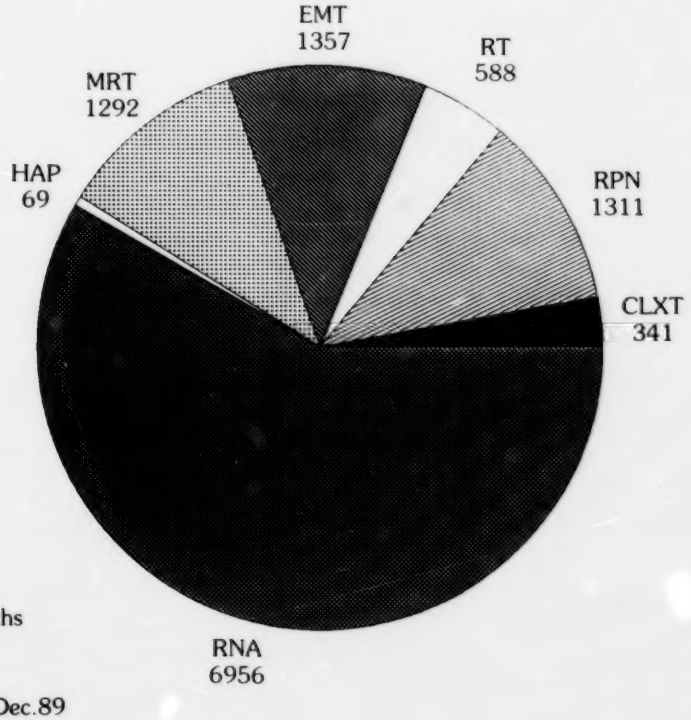
As of December 31, 1989, the Health Disciplines Board was responsible for the regulation of 11,914 practitioners in seven designated health disciplines (Registration of MDNs did not begin until the end of 1989). Figure 5 shows the number of registered practitioners in each of the designated disciplines.

Hearings and Appeals

During the 1989 calendar year, one registration decision was appealed to the Health Disciplines Board and five complaints were processed by the governing bodies.

FIGURE 5

NUMBER OF PRACTITIONERS REGISTERED UNDER THE HEALTH DISCIPLINES ACT



RT: Respiratory Therapists
HAP: Hearing Aid Practitioners
MDN: Mental Deficiency Nurses
MRT: Med. Radiation Techs
EMT: Emergency Med. Techs
RPN: Reg. Psych. Nurses
CLXT: Combined Lab. & X-ray Techs
RNA: Reg. Nursing Assistants

NOTE: MDN — Registration began Dec.89

STATUS REPORTS ON REGULATED DISCIPLINES

COMBINED LABORATORY AND X-RAY TECHNICIANS

Combined Laboratory and X-ray Technicians (CLXT) are hospital workers trained to provide laboratory and x-ray work in smaller hospitals that do not have sufficient volume or range of work to warrant employing both a laboratory technologist and an x-ray technologist.

Regulation

In November of 1984 the discipline of Combined Laboratory and X-ray Technicians was designated under the Act. A Regulation Development Advisory Committee was established in August 1985 and a draft Regulation was presented to the Board in June 1986. The Regulation came into force in January 1989.

Training Programs and Examinations

The Health Disciplines Board has approved the training program offered at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology for an interim period of one year. As required in the Regulation, applicants applying after June 30, 1989 must complete the Provincial Examination conducted by the Alberta Association of Combined Laboratory and X-ray Technicians. This Provincial Examination was also given interim approval by the Health Disciplines Board.

Practitioners who are not current in practice and need to upgrade their theoretical and technical skills may be required to complete a refresher program in accordance with the Regulation. The Health Disciplines Board approved the NAIT Refresher program in May 1989 for one year.

Registered practitioners may use the title Combined Laboratory and X-ray Technician and the initial CLXT.

Registration Report

Number of registered members as of December 31, 1989 341

Number of registration decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board .. 0

Number of complaints processed 0

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS

Emergency Medical Technicians are pre-hospital care workers trained to provide life support services. The Emergency Medical Technician — Ambulance (EMT-A) provides basic life support services, while the Emergency Medical Technician — Paramedic (EMT-P) provides advanced life support services, both under the medical control of a physician.

Regulation

The designation of the discipline of EMT-P received Royal Assent in June 1983 and a committee was established in January 1984. Following this, the Health Disciplines Board conducted an investigation of the discipline of EMT-A and recommended designation. As a result, the original designation was amended, and in December 1984, the existing committee was expanded to include EMT-A practitioners. The Regulation for EMTs came into force on December 31, 1985. On January 1, 1989 the Alberta Pre-hospital Professions Association of Alberta assumed responsibility for governance of the discipline as recommended by the Health Disciplines Board.

Training Programs and Examinations

The Health Disciplines Board has approved ten training programs for EMT-As. Two programs are offered in Alberta, while the remainder are in other provinces or in the United States.

Three programs have been approved for EMT-Ps; two in Alberta and one in British Columbia. Programs approved at the paramedic level are also approved for registration at the EMT-A level. As required in the Regulation, applicants must complete a registration examination approved by the Health Disciplines Board. For EMT-Ps the approved examination provided by the Registered Emergency Paramedic Association of Alberta. For EMT-As the approved examination is the Provincial Registration Examination for Emergency Medical Technicians — Ambulance which was developed by a committee of practitioners and educators in consultation with the Division of Studies in Medical Education at the University of Alberta, Faculty of Medicine. The examination was first administered in January of 1988. Prior to January 1, 1988 the approved examination for EMT-As was the program end examination for the approved training programs offered in Alberta.

Registered practitioners may use the following titles and initials:

Emergency Medical Technician — EMT
Emergency Medical Technician — Ambulance — EMT-A
Emergency Medical Technician — Paramedic — EMT-P

Registration Report

Number of registered members as of December 31, 1989	1,357
Emergency Medical Technician — Ambulance	937
Emergency Medical Technician — Paramedic	420
Number of registration decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board 1989	0
Number of complaints processed 1989	0

HEARING AID PRACTITIONERS

Practitioners in this health discipline test clients' hearing capacity and select, fit, dispense and repair hearing aids. The services of practitioners are used in industry to determine the need for hearing protection and to provide and fit protective earmolds when conditions warrant their use. Hearing aid practitioners work independently in private clinics and offices.

Regulation

The designation of Hearing Aid Practitioners received Royal Assent in November of 1984. To avoid confusion, the Health Disciplines Board required a name change from Alberta Hearing Aid Audiologist Association to Alberta Hearing Aid Practitioners Association. Upon recommendation, the Alberta Hearing Aid Practitioners Association assumed statutory governing responsibility for this discipline. The Regulation was approved and came into effect on March 1, 1988.

Training Programs and Examinations

There are no existing training programs approved by the Department of Advanced Education for Hearing Aid Practitioners. However, the Health Disciplines Board has approved the following training programs offered through the National Hearing Aid Society (U.S.A.) and Alberta College to fulfill the approved training requirements under the Health Disciplines Act:

- National Hearing Aid Society Correspondence Course
- Alberta College Audiology I
- Alberta College Audiology II Hearing Measurement
- At least two of Alberta College Audiology II
  - Hearing Aid Technology
  - Anatomy
  - Acoustics
  - Hearing Disorders and Management
- Studentship (Alberta College)

Registered practitioners may use the title Hearing Aid Practitioner.

Registration Report

Number of registered members as of December 31, 1989 69

Number of registration reviews and appeals processed 1989 0

Number of complaints processed 1989 0

MEDICAL RADIATION TECHNOLOGISTS

Medical Radiation Technologists, under the direction of a physician, use a variety of x-ray equipment and radioactive materials to provide diagnostic and therapeutic services to patients.

Regulation

The designation of Medical Radiation Technology received Royal Assent in June 1983 and a committee was established in January 1984. The Regulation for the health discipline came into effect on January 31, 1986. This Regulation provides for the registration of Radiographic Technologists, Nuclear Medicine Technologists and Oncology Technologists. A health discipline committee governed the discipline until February 1, 1988. At that time, the Alberta Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (AAMRT) assumed regulatory responsibility as a health discipline association.

Training Programs and Examinations

The Health Disciplines Board has approved all the programs currently offered in Canada that have been accredited by the Canadian Medical Association/Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists for all three types of Medical Radiation Technologists. In all three areas of practice, the approved registration examinations are the National Examinations of the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists.

The Health Disciplines Board approved three new refresher programs in March, 1989, for Medical Diagnostic Radiology, Nuclear Medicine and Radiation Therapy (Oncology), developed by a joint committee with representation from the AAMRT and educators from all three specialized areas.

Registered practitioners may use the following titles and initials:

Radiographic Technologist — RTR or *ACR
Radiation Oncology Technologist — RTT or *ACT
Nuclear Medicine Technologist — RTNM or *ACNM

*ACR, ACT, ACNM — for technologists with Advanced Certification

Registration Report

Number of registered members as of December 31, 1989	1,292
Registered Radiographic Technologists	1,115
Registered Nuclear Medicine Technologists	102
Registered Oncology Technologists	75
Number of registration decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board 1989	0
Number of complaints processed 1989	0

MENTAL DEFICIENCY NURSES

Mental Deficiency Nurses (MDN) are persons trained to provide nursing services to individuals with mental handicaps. In Alberta, they are referred to as Mental Deficiency Nurses but in Great Britain they are called Nurses for the Mentally Handicapped. In many jurisdictions, the services offered by Mental Deficiency Nurses are provided by Psychiatric Nurses or Registered Nurses.

Regulation

In the early 1970s, educational institutions in Alberta ceased to train MDNs. These practitioners were regulated under the **Psychiatric Nurses Training Act** until the Act was repealed in 1987.

In January 1985 the Alberta Mental Deficiency Nurses Association applied to the Health Disciplines Board for designation under the Act. After completing its investigation in 1987, the Board recommended designation. The Regulation for MDNs came into force on September 1, 1989 and the MDN Committee was appointed as the governing committee in December 1989. The registration process began at the end of December 1989.

Registered practitioners may use the title Registered Mental Deficiency Nurse, and the initial RMDN.

Training Programs and Examinations

The register for MDNs is closed and as a result, there are no training programs or examinations for registered mental deficiency nurses.

Registration Report

Registration of MDNs did not begin until the end of December 1989.

PSYCHIATRIC NURSES

Psychiatric Nurses are practitioners who provide nursing care to emotionally and mentally ill patients.

Regulation

The designation of the discipline of Psychiatric Nurse received Royal Assent in September 1986. The Psychiatric Nurses Association of Alberta has been appointed the governing body for the health discipline. A Regulation was drafted and came into force on January 1, 1988. At that time, the statute previously regulating psychiatric nurses, the **Psychiatric Nurses Training Act**, was repealed.

Training Programs and Examinations

The Health Disciplines Board has approved two programs for Psychiatric Nurses offered in Alberta. In addition to completing an approved program, all applicants must complete the approved registration examination that is offered by the Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association of Alberta.

Educational Standards Advisory Committee

The Health Disciplines Board has approved the establishment of an Educational Standards Advisory Committee to evaluate the nurse training and make recommendations to the Board.

Registered practitioners may use the following titles and initials:

Registered Psychiatric Nurse — RPN
Psychiatric Nurse — PN

Registration Report

Number of registered members as of December 31, 1989 1,311

Number of registration decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board 1989 0

Number of complaints processed 1989 1

RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS

Respiratory Therapists, under the direction of a physician, plan and implement therapeutic and diagnostic procedures for patients with heart and lung disorders. Therapeutic services include cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, mechanical ventilatory support and therapeutic gas administration. Examples of diagnostic services are cardiopulmonary testing and monitoring and arterial blood gas services.

Regulation

The designation of the discipline of Respiratory Therapy received Royal Assent in June of 1983 and the Committee was established in December 1983. The Regulation came into force on March 31, 1986. The regulatory responsibility for the discipline was transferred to the Alberta Society of Respiratory Therapists in April 1989.

Training Programs and Examinations

The Health Disciplines Board has approved the two programs offered in Alberta as well as all other Canadian respiratory therapy programs that have been accredited by the Canadian Medical Association/Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists (CSRT). In addition to completing an approved program, all applicants must pass the certification examination offered by the CSRT, which has been approved by the Health Disciplines Board, or the USA National Board of Respiratory Care Examination which was recognized on an interim basis by the Board on March 30, 1989, as equivalent to the CSRT examination.

Registered practitioners may use the following titles and initials:

Registered Respiratory Therapist — RRT
Registered Respiratory Technologist — RRT

Registration Report

Number of registered members as of December 31, 1989 588

Number of registration decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board 1989 0

Number of complaints processed 1989 1

REGISTERED NURSING ASSISTANTS

Nursing Assistants are practitioners who provide practical nursing care under the direction of a nurse or physician to patients in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, institutions and other facilities.

Regulation

The designation of the discipline of Nursing Assistant received Royal Assent in November of 1983. A health discipline committee was established in September 1984 and was responsible for the development of the Regulation for the health discipline. When the Regulation came into force on January 1, 1987, the Professional Council of Registered Nursing Assistants assumed responsibility for governing the discipline.

Training Programs and Examinations

At present, there are three approved nursing assistant certificate programs offered in the province. The approved registration examination is the Canadian Nurses Association Testing Service Examination for Nursing Assistants.

Educational Standards Advisory Committee

An Educational Standards Advisory Committee was established in May 1989 to evaluate the basic, refresher, advanced and specialty training programs in the province and make recommendations to the Board.

Registered practitioners may use the following titles and initials.

Registered Nursing Assistant — RNA
Registered Nursing Orderly — RNO

Registration Report

Number of registered members as of December 31, 1989 6956

Number of registration decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board 1989 1

Number of complaints processed 1989 3